

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to honor the life of an outstanding Member of Congress from New Jersey, Bob Franks, who passed away on Friday after a battle with cancer.

During his 14 years in the General Assembly and eight years as a member of this body, Bob was dedicated to bettering the lives of New Jerseyans.

Principled, relentless, genial and magnanimous, Bob, like few others, had the ability to work across the aisle and earn the trust and respect of political allies and opponents alike--a skill regrettably in short supply these days.

After leaving Congress, Bob remained active in public affairs--while spending more time with family than the Congressional schedule would permit--leading the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey. It was during his time as president of the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey that I worked closely with Bob and was able to know his good nature and policy acumen first-hand. I feel fortunate to have had such an opportunity.

I ask that the Members of the House extend sympathy to Bob's wife Fran, his family and friends. He will be missed.